



EVERY TUESDAY

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## Youth Takes Over the Old Tower

THERE is news from the Canonbury Tower, the most historic house in Islington, a treasured fragment of Elizabethan London. A new club is being prepared for the returning Services members of the clubs which have been housed there since the end of 1940.

The Marquess of Northampton, that most enlightened of landlords, has invited the boys and girls who had been using the modern King Edward VII Hall attached to the building to use the whole Tower, which he had turned into a Community Centre for his London tenants. There were 50 of these boys and girls six years ago; today there are 300, comprising half the membership of the centre, and they are immensely proud of their two clubs.

### Escaped the Blitz

Throughout the blitz they carried on, these lads and lasses, boys of 13 to 18, girls from 14 upwards. Fortunately, the old "castle" escaped all damage, and though the ancient panelling had to be removed, and the west wall now needs repair, the Tower is as sturdy as it was when Prior William Bolton of St Bartholomew's first built it, over 400 years ago.

Now the Tower will also have a club for the over-18s, with educational as well as social facilities. There are about 170 Services members, and Mr Bryan Bailey, a young and most energetic Club Leader, told the CN that a third of them had become officers or NCOs—a fine tribute to club training.

### Historic Associations

The returning Service men and women are delighted with the good news. They are devoted to their ancient Tower, with its fine rooms, its fascinating Tudor alcoves and windows, its twisting stairways, and the grand views over London from the flat roof, 66 feet above prim Canonbury Square. And they are proud, too, of its historic

associations, which links them with great men of the past—with men like Oliver Goldsmith, who is said to have written *The Vicar of Wakefield* here; and with Charles Lamb, who used to come here to watch the sunset from the rooftop.

The boys and girls at Canonbury do all the jobs of light repair to the fabric and furniture of the Tower. They have their own room for the purpose, equipped with tools and benches. They "run their own show" in extensive self-government, although their management committee includes, besides Mr Bailey, two wise and experienced men, Mr John Watson and Mr C. C. Walkinshaw, London magistrates.

### Weekly Discussions

But not only do they run their clubs, these boys and girls, they find much of the money required. The Marquess of Northampton, with typical generosity, gave them an annual grant when he gave them free use of the Tower; but they pay their way. "Well, of course they do," says Mr Bailey. "It wouldn't be their own club if they didn't." The under-sixteens pay fourpence a week, the older ones eightpence. With these subscriptions, and with socials and canteen profits, they raise about £900 a year—more than half their running costs.

The club members have their own monthly magazine, and some of them have been chosen to take part in the famous Youth Discussions of the BBC. Their own weekly discussions are lively and alert, too—how could they be otherwise?—for these are fine young citizens in the making.

## THE PROFESSOR WITH A PICKAXE

THAT modern Oxford institution, Ruskin College, has just received as a legacy the gold watch given to John Ruskin by his parents 106 years ago, on his becoming 21. It is a "repeater" watch, and by a touch he could make it chime the hours and quarters by day or night without looking at the dial.

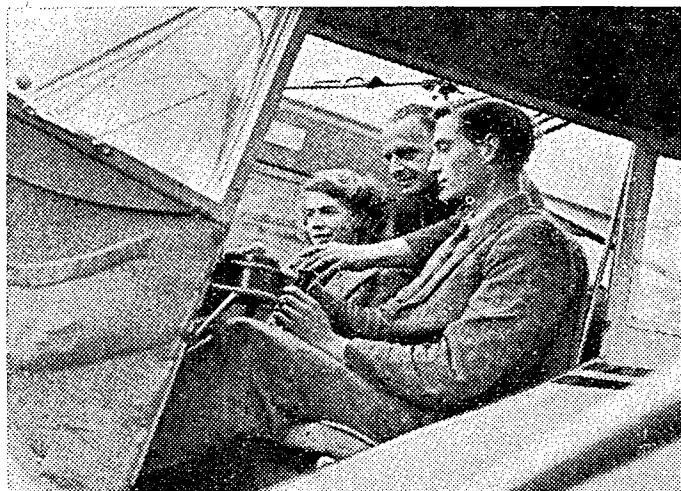
Ruskin's parents thought then that John would become a bishop; instead he developed into our greatest writer on Art, and a zealous reformer with noble ideals. But he had a Boy Scout's love of the practical.

This once came out in a burst of navying, while he was an Oxford professor. He persuaded a number of undergraduates to join him in what he thought honest, fruitful toil. Outside

Oxford, at Hinksey, was a stretch of road that nobody thought of repairing. So, buying picks and shovels, and drilled by his gardener as sergeant-major, Ruskin set out with his rowing and cricketing undergraduates to do the job; and many a time the repeater watch must have been asked to tell the time as the perspiring professor toiled with his pickaxe on that melancholy Hinksey highway!

Among Ruskin's associates were youths destined to play leading parts in later world affairs; but highway-making was not their forte. They finished their work, after a fashion, but it did not stand the test, and they all had to acknowledge that a single untutored navy was the equal of any half-dozen of them.

## FLYING FAMILY



A flying lesson from father



Wheeling out the plane from the home-made hangar

The Shipside family of Blidworth, Nottingham (father, mother, and three children) all go in for flying. They have their own plane, a little family Auster, and they have made their own airfield close to their home and built a hangar on it. Mr Shipside's 17-year-old son Kenneth is learning to become his father's co-pilot on long trips.

## Addition Sums With Insects

COUNTING insects to find out in advance whether they are likely to be plentiful or not is the sort of queer task we might dream about and wake up to laugh at; but it has actually been the job of a group of scientific workers at Rothamsted, under the direction of Mr C. B. Williams, for the past four years.

To know beforehand what numbers of insects are to be expected is obviously of great value to farmers, and the painstaking labours of the Rothamsted scientists have done a great deal towards providing this knowledge.

The number of insects at any particular period in a country depends on the sort of weather there was while the insects were growing up. For these tiny fellow-creatures of ours are even more susceptible to the weather than we are—and young midges are not provided with umbrellas, blankets, and gas fires.

To make an accurate forecast of the size of the coming insect host, in relation to the climate during the egg, grub, and later stages of the creatures' existence,

the Rothamsted scientists used a standardised light trap to catch insects at night. They used this for 1400 consecutive nights, and then—a work of infinite patience—counted their catch. To try to imagine such a task is enough to send one to sleep more speedily than counting sheep going through a gap in the hedge.

Their devoted work has shown that insect abundance in the summer depends on rainfall, and in the winter on temperature.

## FOR OR AGAINST RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI, the mongoose, who, as Rudyard Kipling told, was the defender of the Anglo-Indian's bungalow against venomous snakes, has been causing quite a commotion in Hawaii. In Hawaii the mongoose eats rats rather than reptiles, and as this Pacific island has five different kinds of rats, four of which live in trees, the rat-catcher mongoose was hailed at first as a public benefactor.

But then a cloud came over his reputation, because it was found that he would as soon eat

## THE PERSIAN SPORTSMAN

*A Shah, His Boxers, and a Queen's Garden*

PEOPLE in this country must have been surprised to learn that with the Russo-Persian crisis at its height, Persia was, nevertheless, getting excited over a football championship. Finding that it would be impossible for him to leave Teheran on March 28 for the final, the young Shah, a fortnight in advance, decided that one of his brothers should represent him at the game.

### A Surprise For the Shah

We do not as a rule think of Persians as people devoted to sport or athletics, yet it was they who gave us polo, and one of their greatest poets described an international polo match in which Persia engaged nine centuries ago.

But a Shah of Persia who kept a diary of his official visit to England during the 19th century recorded his astonishment that the Duke of Sutherland, with whom he had stayed for a short time at Trentham, taking the royal guest out on the lake there, should himself "accept the fatigue of rowing." He was equally astounded when the duke "stripped off his hat" and played bowls in order that the Shah might understand the game.

### Time Brings Its Changes

At Buckingham Palace, where he was the guest of Queen Victoria, the Shah worried Court officials into introducing professional boxers to give a display for him in the Palace grounds—a freedom against which the Queen privately protested. It was quite right for him, she said, to witness boxing if he desired, but not in her garden!

In his diary the Shah describes this boxing in the comical manner to be expected of one strange to sport. But Time brought its changes. Not long before the outbreak of the recent war Prince Hamid Kadjar, a son of the ex-Shah, won the senior boxing championship of the famous old training-ship Worcester, lying in the Thames off Greenwich, in which he was a cadet.

birds, which also live in trees, and did not despise the chicken in the coop.

So there arose two parties in Hawaii, those who applauded the way he dealt with the rat plague, and those who bewailed his depredations among the birds. At present his friends are uppermost.

It is a curious fact that the birds take no notice of him when he appears in the farmer's yard, though they fly at the sight of the household cat. The chickens prefer the mongoose!



## TAKING CARE OF THE NATION'S HEALTH

If the National Health Service Bill becomes law, our present health services will be changed in many respects early in 1948. This Bill, therefore, concerns every one of us, young or old.

In effect the Bill makes the care of health a matter for the State, with a State Health Service, free for all, which will include nationally owned hospitals and public health centres.

Both voluntary and municipal, or public, hospitals, will be transferred, with a few special exceptions, to the control of the State, and will be administered by regional boards, each with a university medical school.

The great hospitals to which medical schools are attached—Guy's and St Bartholomew's are instances—will be subject to special arrangements and will preserve their endowments, which will pass to the control of new boards of governors.

All specialists taking part in the new service will be attached to the staffs of hospitals, but if they are part-time they will be able to practise privately as well.

Patients in hospitals will only be charged fees if they occupy private beds or require extras.

New health centres will be set up and maintained by the county and county borough councils. At these centres the doctors who ordinarily attend upon people in their own homes will work if they wish, and give advice and treatment, in conjunction with other doctors there.

### The Turn of the District Councils

PUBLIC elections are still with us. This week it is the turn of the district councils.

Urban and rural district councils are important local bodies, with many public duties which include housing, maternity and child welfare, swimming baths, libraries, roads and streets, food sampling, parks, and town and country planning. They have no aldermen, and one-third of the members retire each year.

### GO TO IT!

BRITISH industries are manned by many of the ablest managers, many of the finest scientists and technologists and engineers, and many of the finest, best-hearted craftsmen and workpeople in the world. British industry is inseparable from its great and essential trade union movement. We are able, if we will, to tackle our industrial problems in a spirit and with a drive superior to any other country in the world. *Mr Herbert Morrison*

### "SHAGGIE" DOG. STORY

WHEN Mrs A. Bartlett, Schools Liaison Officer in the Small-borough District of Norfolk, visits local schools she takes her dog Shaggie with her. The dog has joined the Savings Movement, and the children eagerly look out for his visit. And every month a savings letter, signed with Shaggie's footprint, is sent to the schools and read out to the children.

There will be centres, too, for health education.

Everyone will be allowed a free choice of a State doctor to attend him free in his own home, in the doctor's surgery, or at a health centre.

Doctors will be encouraged but not compelled to join the State medical service. They will no longer be permitted, however, to buy and sell their practices, nor to start a new practice in an area where there are sufficient doctors.

Dentists, chemists and opticians will have the right to join the new health service, working at hospitals, health centres, or on their own premises.

Local health authorities are to give special care to nursing mothers and children under five, not attending school, also to provide health visitors, and domestic help for any household in special need of it.

Research and the prevention of ill-health are to be specially provided for.

All agree there is an urgent need to raise the standard of the nation's health—many more doctors are wanted in poorer districts, for instance, and the CN hopes that Parliament will meet the need—and with full justice towards all who have been working for this vital cause.

### FAREWELL, WARSPITE

THIRTY years ago the grandest of battleships came into the service of the Royal Navy, H M S Warspite. With a displacement of 27,500 tons, and carrying eight 15-inch, twelve 6-inch, and two 3-inch guns, she plunged almost directly into the sea battle of Jutland against the German fleet on May 31, 1916. In this encounter she was hit 18 times.

Many were the exploits of the Warspite after that. In the last war she gave splendid service which ended with the bombardment of the island of Walcheren, in support of the Allied landing.

Now this grand battleship is to be scrapped. Her work is finished, but her glorious name will live on in the hearts of all in the Royal Navy.

### Norwich Loses a Friend

WITH the passing of Mr Russell Colman Norwich has lost a generous, public-spirited citizen.

Like his father, J. J. Colman, he was a great collector of pictures, particularly by artists of the famous Norwich School of Painting, founded in 1802 by John Crome, a son of the city.

Russell Colman owned no fewer than 50 examples of John Crome's work, and more than 500 by that other shining light of the Norwich School, John Sell Cotman. Nearly three years ago he announced that he intended to bequeath these pictures, together with the hundreds of others in his collection, and funds for the building of a gallery, to his beloved city of Norwich.

## America's New Ambassador

ANOTHER good friend of Britain is to succeed Mr John Winant as the United States Ambassador in London—Mr Averell Harriman, who was American Ambassador in Moscow until last January.

As President Roosevelt's special representative he was present at the signing of the Atlantic Charter, and at the great war conferences at Casablanca, Quebec, Cairo, and Yalta, and in 1941 came to Britain to hurry up the delivery of food and war materials from the United States to this country.

To the departing Mr Winant Britain says a heartfelt Thank You. We owe more to him, perhaps, than we shall ever know.

## NEW SWIMMING CHAMPION?

CATHIE GIBSON is only 14, but she is a grand little swimmer, a fact which is, perhaps, not altogether surprising, be-



Cathie Gibson

cause she is the daughter of the assistant trainer at the baths in Motherwell.

But the other day Cathie swam in a 400-metres race against the Dutch world champion Miss Iet Koster-van-Feggelen in London, and lost by only a few inches. So we are likely to hear more of young Cathie's prowess as a swimmer; perhaps she will one day be as famous as that other grand young Scottish swimmer, Nancy Riach, who holds so many records.

## The Mothering of Orphans

ABOUT a year ago, when people were becoming alarmed on the question of ill-treatment and neglect of boarded-out children, the Government set up a Care of Children Committee, with Miss Myra Curtis as chairman, to consider the provision made for children deprived of normal home life with parents or relatives.

This committee have published an interim report in which they press for arrangements to be made immediately for suitable people to be given proper courses of training as house mothers, assistant matrons, and corresponding male staff in children's homes. A central council for training in child care is recommended, also the appointment of a director of training, the award of national certificates on completion of two-year or three-year courses, and grants to students of limited means.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**GIANTS OF YORE.** German prisoners digging at Bolène-la-Croisière, near Avignon, France, have discovered the skeletons of abnormally tall men. The skeletons are believed to be 2000 years old.

Russian-speaking announcers are being recruited by the BBC for their new broadcasts to Russia three times a day.

President Truman has sent a message to the people of India, who are threatened with famine, saying: "We will do all we can and possibly more than we promised."

**REEL EXPENSE.** Britain spent £32,000,000 on American films between September 3, 1939, and January 31, 1946.

It is reported that the gold reserves of the Bank of France, amounting to more than £250,000,000, which were secretly removed in a cruiser to Martinique before the collapse of France in 1940, have been brought back to France.

Chungking Radio has reported that the Emperor of Japan, Hirohito, and his family have been converted to Christianity, and that he wishes to make Christianity the State religion of Japan.

**A NEW LIDICE.** A mining research institute costing about £100,000 is to be built on the site of the village of Lidice in Czechoslovakia which was wantonly destroyed by the Germans. British miners are contributing.

As a gift to Britain, the Bahamas Islands have shipped nearly £73,000 worth of tinned honey and tomatoes.

Leningrad is to have an underground railway.

**HAT TRICK.** When a man in Philadelphia chased his hat on a windy day he caused a collision between three cars which sought to avoid him. Two passengers in the cars were taken to hospital. The man recovered his hat and walked away without noticing the commotion he had caused.

A statue of President Roosevelt is to be set up in London.

**FOOD GIFTS.** New Zealand post offices have been recently flooded with food parcels for Britain. Auckland post office has been handling nearly 10,000 parcels a week.

As a gesture of gratitude to Britain, Belgium proposes to send 250 building workers to help in the re-building of Dover.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**HER EXCELLENCY.** Britain may have women ambassadors and consuls to represent her in foreign countries, following the decision of the Government to admit women to the Foreign Service on the same terms as men.

The statement in an article in the CN for March 23 that neap tides are a fortnight after the spring tides, should have read a week after, for spring tides occur just after both New Moon and Full Moon.

The trawler *Northern Sky* claimed recently to have made a world record catch for one boat of 47,310 stones of fish. The *Northern Sky* was formerly a U-boat hunter.

**A NICE RISE.** A Parliamentary committee has recommended that MPs should have a salary of £1000 a year of which £500 should be free of income tax.

Large country houses are being taken over as Borstal institutions. Among those to be accommodated in them will be young men from Dartmoor, which is to be closed as a Borstal institution.

The 30,000-ton battleship H M S Rodney is to be scrapped. She has developed leaks as a result of hard war service and the cost of repairing her is considered uneconomic.

To expand research in the Clarendon Laboratory, the Nuffield Foundation is to give £8,000 a year for eight years.

A record winter milk production was established in England and Wales in February when 92,134,000 gallons were sold, an increase of 7,645,000 gallons on February 1945.

**NATURE RESERVE.** Arlington Court near Barnstaple in Devon, a lovely estate of 3000 acres, has been given to the National Trust by Miss Chichester. She wishes that the central part, 700 acres with lake and river, should be kept as a nature reserve.

Britain's exports in February were £60,000,000, the highest in any month for 16 years. It was an increase of £2,900,000 on January's figure.

The famous Pioneer Health Centre at Peckham has been re-opened, and is to be the headquarters of a National Trust for the study and promotion of health.

Mr W. F. Oakeshott, High Master of St Paul's School, has been appointed Headmaster of Winchester College.

B. Vana of Czechoslovakia is the new Table Tennis Champion of England. Miss D. Beregi of Exeter won the Women's Singles.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**GOOD WORK!** During the war the 1st Balderton (Nottinghamshire) Scout Troop collected, baled, and loaded into railway trucks 275 tons of waste paper, and the 3rd Dorchester Troop collected and baled 250 tons.

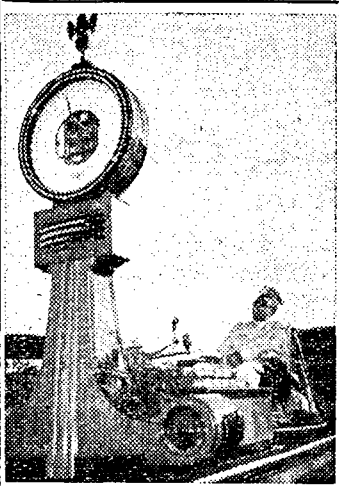
After May 1 a Scout will have to pass certain additional tests in road safety before gaining the Second or First Class Badge.

The Glasgow County Scout Council, which until now has had no Sea Scout branch, is to consider the possibilities of forming Sea Scout Troops in the city.

**SCOUT CAPTIVE.** The Chief Scout has awarded the Medal of Merit for Meritorious Service to Patrol Leader Ronald Whitfield, now attached to the 28th Renfrewshire Scout Group. Ronald, now 16, gained his First Class and other Proficiency Badges while interned in Hong Kong.

When the Nottingham Battalion of the Boys Brigade held their Victory Display they had as honoured guests the Hawick BB bagpipe band, who were received by the Lord Mayor. On the Sunday 1500 BB boys attended the Nottingham Battalion Church parade.





### Diamonds as Weights

The Aga Khan, head of the Ismaili Moslems, being weighed in diamonds on his Diamond Jubilee at Bombay recently. The gems are in plastic boxes on the scales.

### FLOATING HOTEL

THE first party of tourists to come to Britain for seven years is due to arrive in London on Monday, April 8. The party consists of 90 Swedish visitors who will use their ship, the Swedish-Lloyd vessel Suecia, as an hotel, eating and sleeping on board. Knowing that the food problem here is acute, the tourists will bring their own stores, and will be content with sandwiches when travelling in a motor-coach on sightseeing tours around the country.

The party will stay for a week, and they will be followed each fortnight by more tourists from Sweden.

### More British Films

MOST cinema-goers would like to see more British films on British screens, and thanks to a Board of Trade suggestion this will soon be possible.

At present, if a major film is to be assured of success it must be booked by one of the three big cinema circuits. The cinemas are already compelled by law to show a certain proportion of British films and naturally enough the first choice falls on the films from studios associated with the circuits. But it is the Government's wish to encourage independent producers of films and they have asked the three big circuits to allot a portion of their screen time to independent British productions. This is in addition to the time already allotted for British films.

It is not only important that we should see more British films in our cinemas, but the more successful producers we have the greater will be our chance of building up an overseas trade. And, as we all know, Britain must export to live.

### DYNAMIC MUSIC

THE Moscow Dynamo Football Club's tour in Britain does not perhaps strike most of us as an appropriate subject for an operetta. But Nikita Bogoslovsky, a 32-year-old popular Russian composer, thinks that the subject is very fitting. She has written an operetta in four scenes about the club's tour. Three of the scenes are in London, and the other is at the Moscow airport.

Miss Bogoslovsky is anxious to play her part in promoting Anglo-Soviet sporting friendship.

## Harvesting all the Year Round

NEVER has mankind's interest in harvesting been greater than in these hungry days.

Thinking of our own brief harvesting season in this country we are apt to imagine that reaping and gleaning take place at one time throughout the Northern Hemisphere and six months later on the other side of the Equator. Yet the fact is that every month in the year is harvest-time somewhere in the world.

New Zealand and Chile lead in the year's harvesting by gathering their crops in January. Parts

of India, and Upper Egypt, take February and March for theirs, and the remainder of India, completing hers in April, is then joined by Lower Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, and Persia. In times of plenty China, Japan, Central Asia, Algeria, and Morocco reap their store in May, while in June Italy, Spain, Turkey, and Southern France are similarly engaged. It takes three months for the United States harvest, beginning in June for the Southern States.

South Russia makes July its harvest month, so do Rumania,

Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, and the major part of France. It is in August that Canada, Central Russia, Poland, and, of course, England, bind their sheaves. September is the month for northern Russia and Scotland, and October that of Sweden and Norway. November is the harvest month of South Africa, and December crowns the wheat-growers' labours in Australia, Argentina, and Abyssinia.

So we see that, whatever the yield, harvesting is always somewhere in progress. May it be bounteous everywhere in 1946.

### Britain's Smallest Wheatfield

SOME weeks ago a farmer in West Suffolk asked the Air Ministry to release 250 acres of his land so that he might grow wheat on it this year. The land had been used as an aerodrome since 1942. He was formally notified by the Ministry that one square foot was to be released—a plot about the size of this page. It had contained a boundary post which the authorities no longer required.

Someone in the Air Ministry seems to have a strange notion of the right size for a wheatfield. Perhaps he is like those friends of ours who say "they are not big bread eaters."

### MORE COOK ISLANDERS

THE Cook Islands, which are governed by New Zealand, have doubled their population since 1901.

For the last twenty years the task of improving the health of these brown-skinned people who are kinsmen of the Maoris has been carried out by Dr E. P. Ellison. Now he has retired, and can look back on a fine record of improvement in the health of the islanders.

### YOUTH IS SHOWN THE WAY

IN all forms of sport Youth suffered from the lack of adequate instruction and practice during the war years, and new schemes started at Wimbledon and in Hampshire are indeed welcome.

The All-England Tennis Association has selected 12 young tennis players who showed promise in junior tournaments to receive coaching by experts on the courts at Wimbledon. One of these lads hopes to follow his tennis champion brother, Charles Hare, to Davis Cup fame.

At the week-ends England's great professional, Dan Maskell, will help the young men to perfect their play, and other great players will play practice matches with them.

If this scheme proves successful it will be extended to include our promising girl players—among whom we should like to find another Dorothy Round.

A similar scheme is part of the Hampshire County Cricket Club's programme, under which some 50 schoolboys from Southampton, Portsmouth, and Bournemouth will be coached by the former England and Notts cricketer, Sam Staples. The boys will also be admitted free to county games.

### Western Art For Eastern Eyes

YOUNG Chinese artists and other people in China showed great interest in a recent exhibition of British Art organised by the British Council. Many young artists in China today are breaking away from the traditional style of Chinese art and they are eager to study the art styles of other countries.

The exhibition, which opened at Chungking in January, contains 76 prints which are representative of modern British graphic art—etchings, wood engravings, lithographs, and so on. There are also British books on art. Chinese art lovers are flocking enthusiastically to the exhibition, which is now on tour.

### THE ELEPHANT KEEPS ITSELF

JAMUNA, a popular elephant at the Auckland Zoo in New Zealand, carried 24,000 children on her back last year; at 2d a ride, Jamuna thus earned £200.

Jamuna's board and lodging costs only £95 a year, so she earns enough to pay her way, and also to provide over £100 towards the upkeep of other animals.

If Jamuna only knew this she might ask for a rise—another truss of hay a day perhaps.



### In Good Hands

At the East Hill Indoor Cricket School, Wandsworth, a rising batsman, A. C. Farrow, learns how to hit sixes, from the Surrey County cricketer, E. A. Watts.

### A HAT FOR FISH

BUYING a lady a new hat is a well-known way of giving pleasure, but presenting a purchaser of fish with one sounds too good to be true. Yet, upon occasion, this does occur.

It happened the other day when, with a record catch on board, the trawler St Bartholomew returned from the North Sea to the port of Hull, after her maiden voyage, and, in accordance with an old custom, the owners presented a new hat to the buyer of the first kit (or wooden tub) of fish sold from her. Who the lucky recipient of the new hat was is not stated, but it is known that St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, recently received 1000 pounds of filleted haddock from the owners of the trawler bearing the same name as the great hospital founded by Rahere centuries ago.

### W A A F's Own Chaplain

FOR the first time in the history of the R A F a woman has been appointed as a chaplain. She is the Revd Elsie Chamberlain, a Bachelor of Divinity of King's College, London.

Soldiers, sailors, and airmen look to their "padre," as they affectionately call the Chaplain, for spiritual comfort—and advice on all sorts of other subjects, too: now members of the W A A F will have Miss Elsie Chamberlain as their spiritual mother to help them in the problems of their lives.

Miss Elsie Chamberlain was Congregational Minister of Christ Church, Friern Barnet, until she received her new appointment. Among her many other interests she is an enthusiastic worker for the cause of Temperance.

### NETBALL NEWS

THE game of Netball is becoming more and more popular. This Saturday an inter-county tournament is being held on the courts of the County High School, Woodford, Essex.

Some 250 players from 24 counties will take part, and each match will be of only 18 minutes' duration instead of the usual 30. Play begins on six courts at 11 a.m. and will last until about 5 p.m., and admission is free.



### Nature Study at First Hand

Girls studying natural history at Ewhurst, Surrey, where the first of the London County Council's spring and summer educational camps has been opened. These girls come from Greenwich Park Central Secondary School. At the camp; Secondary school girls between 11 and 16 will spend two or more weeks in nature study.





### Airwomen of Tomorrow

These girls with model planes they have made belong to the Air Rangers, a newly-formed branch of the Girl Guide movement which has grown rapidly. The Air Rangers held a model aircraft exhibition in London not long ago and these three models won first, second, and third prizes.

## SEEING THE HOMELAND

By the CN Film Correspondent

THIS week we have news of three documentary films which are well worth seeing. Two of them are Travel films. The first, *Old Father Thames*, as suggested by the title, takes the form of a picturesque river jaunt from the lovely Cotswolds to the London Docks. In passing, ancient inns, churches, old bridges, and villages are pointed out and the camera pauses to take in the City of Spire (Oxford), the lovely view from Richmond Hill, the stately buildings of Westminster, and finally the docks with their ever-present air of adventure. The Thames is an old subject for producers of travel pictures, but in this particular film it is competently presented, with a commentary by Alvar Lidell.

The other film of this type, produced by Paramount British, will be of great interest to all natives and lovers of the Emerald Isle, for *Back Home In Ireland* has a unique interest

apart from the scenes of Irish rural beauty and the old Irish songs and dances that enliven it. An American soldier traces old links established between Ulster and his own country by famous Irish-Americans, and by showing the former background of these emigrants who have helped to shape history in the New World, many towns and villages of Ireland are visited in turn. The period is 1942, and as a sidelight there is the inevitable wedding, with a local girl as bride.

Town Meeting Of The World, a Ministry of Information release, is a record of one of the most important historical events of our time. It is the story of the opening of Uno, the United Nations Organisation upon which so much of the world's future way of life depends. This is not a wearying account of long, boring—at least to the cinema-goer—speeches, but a short and engaging record.

## Walkie-Talkie at the School Sports

ONE of the best all-round athletes at Kelly College in Devonshire is A. B. E. Jarvis, and it can be imagined what a bitter disappointment it was for him, not long ago, when he caught influenza before the school sports, and was not only prevented from taking part in them but was not well enough even to go out and watch the progress of his House.

However, resourceful college boys came to the rescue. Some of his friends obtained a "walkie-talkie" radio transmitting apparatus. One of them carried part of this in his hands at the sports ground and broadcast a commentary on all the events to which Jarvis was able to listen with earphones in his room.

It was the next best thing to being at the sports.

## THE CHOICE OF THE BEE

So much has been written about the life of the Bee that there seems nothing to add; but Dr Colin Butler at Rothamsted tells something new about the way of the worker.

When she is young and begins working on a group of plants, he says, the worker bee always alights on one particular plant and goes back to bid it good-bye when about to return to the hive. Whether she will become a

member of the fixed population of the hive of a foraging area or no depends on the time taken to fill her honey sac. If this is rather more than half an hour she will wander to another area. If she has collected a full load in a given time she hovers over the area till she has taken her bearings so that she can find it again, goes home, and in later foraging expeditions, comes straight to it!

## Under the Gospel Oak

THE people of Kentish Town in London have received from the King an oak sapling 14 feet high which has been planted in their Garden of Remembrance. It will take the place of the famous Gospel Oak that once stood in this parish and under which for many centuries the Gospel of the day was read on important occasions.

The custom of preaching under an oak is one that goes back to the earliest times of Christianity in our land. St Augustine preached under oak trees. Probably he chose to do so because the oak had some special religious or political meaning for his Saxon pagan listeners; certainly for the Britons before them it was a sacred tree.

The Gospel Oak in Kentish Town disappeared about a hundred years ago, when the village was swallowed up in sprawling London. The old oak's position was marked on 18th century maps, and in the generous shade of its aged arms George Whitefield, the great 18th century revivalist, preached. The present parish church stands in what was the field of the Gospel Oak.

Thus amid London's modern bustle the good folk of Kentish Town are to preserve a tradition dating back to the times when their district lay peacefully amid the fields. Such sensibility is a vital part of our British genius.

## A PROMISING VIOLINIST

THE young lady in this picture promises to be one of Tasmania's leading musicians. She is 17-year-old Beryl Kimber, who has been chosen by the Young Tasmanian Artists' Fund as the first of a succession of promising young artists who will be sent overseas for study. The



Tasmanian Government has given £200 to assist the fund.

Beryl recently went to Sydney for further training in preparation for the Sydney Concerto Festival. She is studying under the Russian violin-master, Jascha Gopinka, and another of her ambitions is to win an Australian Broadcasting Commission travelling scholarship for young musicians and to go abroad this year.

At 14 she had passed with honours most of the examinations of the Australian Musical Examination Board. She also won for two years in succession, 1944 and 1945, the Melbourne Concerto Festival competitions.

## THE EDITOR'S TABLE

### INDIA'S GREAT HOUR

THREE Cabinet Ministers are in India on a mission which everyone hopes will lead to peace, happiness, and prosperity for that great land. For two hundred years and more India and Britain have been closely linked, and however much Britain's share in the partnership has been misunderstood, this country has had one ultimate aim—to bring India to the stature of a self-governing nation.

India's great hour has come. She stands on the threshold of complete self-government, either within the British Commonwealth of Nations, or outside it. India's choice will be her own, but whichever way she chooses Britain will smooth the path and bid her God-speed.

*Daughter am I in my mother's house,*

*But mistress in my own.*

*The gates are mine to open,*

*As the gates are mine to close.*

These words of Rudyard Kipling well describe the spirit of India's high decisions which she is about to make.

FOUR hundred millions of people are on the march to a new stage in their historic development. Millions of them are taking only the first steps in education and will need guidance for a long time to come; millions are among the world's poorest outcasts, living barely above starvation level.

Here is a mixture of peoples, struggling to become a great nation which may shine as "the light of Asia," and be a new model in government and order to the peoples of the East.

BRITAIN may well be proud when she has led this mighty group of the world's peoples to the achievement of full self-government. The way is now open to them to play their part, and show the world that upon the foundations of freedom and democracy they can build a rich and glowing civilisation worthy to rank with the greatest in the story of mankind.

The British people, united as never before in their wishes for a free India, watch with high confidence for the outcome of this great opportunity. India may be sure that Britain's pledge of support, sympathy, and help, whatever her decision may be, will be honoured to the full.

ALL the world awaits the result of the discussions now going on in India. Upon them depends not only the welfare of that great land and its people, but the future of many Far Eastern peoples now rising to the stage of self-government. India may yet be a shining star in the East, guiding nations into fully democratic ways of life and adding a new light to her own ancient civilisation.

## APRIL

THAT old writer who described April as "Heaven's blessing and the earth's comfort," spoke truly, for now is the time of spring's smiling entrance. Proverbial wisdom finds praise ever for April's occasional gifts of rain, cold and wind:

*A cold April the barn will fill  
an April flood carries away the  
frog and his brood; and when  
April blows his horn it's good for  
both hay and corn.*

In the Alban calendar, which had ten months, April was the first month of the year, and had 36 days. But Numa Pompilius,

### God Is Our Rock

As for God, His way is perfect the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all they that trust in Him.

For Who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God? *Samuel*

### JUNIOR UNO

A YOUTH organisation which for many years has been a kind of Uno has successfully launched a scheme which makes for better understanding among individual in various countries.

The Scouts "Link-Up" scheme has already brought 70 British Scout Groups into touch with Scout Groups in the liberated countries of Europe. More than 2000 British Scouts have applied for Pen Pals, while abroad have come a great number of such requests.

The CN wishes the scheme great success, and hopes that many more thousands of young correspondents will meet one another at the next World Scout Jamboree, in France next year.

## Under the

AN MP has a heavy mail. At least two letters after his name.

SOMETIMES it is best to lose your temper, says a writer. Not if it is a good one.

SPELLING bees are still popular. How do you teach them?

THE small film producer is given a chance in a field dominated by powerful rivals. He will prefer a cinema.



PETER PC

If a side str



It is said that queues for fish w



## HERE!

who divided the year into twelve, reduced April to 29 days and gave it its present position in the calendar. Julius Caesar added the extra day.

With April comes the cuckoo-song. A pleasant superstition once told that whatever you were doing when you first heard the cuckoo would be your main occupation for the whole year.

While not supporting this superstition, the C N, nevertheless hopes that there will be happiness in each reader's heart as he or she hears the first cuckoo this April.

## Paying to Get Lost

FOR two centuries countless thousands of people, young and old, have deliberately tried to get lost, and have paid for the adventure—in the old Maze at Hampton Court. There is only one way out of this labyrinth of bushes, and those who fail to find it go round and round for far longer than they had expected. But they get out in the end; a keeper rescues them.

It has just been revealed in the Civil Appropriation Accounts that the Government collected £288 in 1944 from such pathfinders in this Maze. Revenue from the lost, so to speak!

## Time and Its Passing

WHAT is time?—the shadow on the dial—the striking of the clock—the running of the sand—day and night—summer and winter—months, years, centuries. These are but arbitrary and outward signs—the measure of time, not time itself. Time is the life of the soul. If not this—then tell me what is time? Longfellow

## Editor's Table

NEW-LAID eggs are in the news. And in their shells.

A TOURISTS' agency wants a new staff. What about a walking stick?

A LONDON boy has remarkably long sight. Hope he keeps it long.

THE BBC is to ask people what they think about burning questions of the day. Most will be in favour, if it saves coal.



ill end soon. Yes—but where?

## THINGS SAID

IN its right place slang has its virtues, but let us keep tight hold on our mother tongue, because that is the key to the treasure house of the past and the great works of the future.

Mr Winston Churchill

IN the fighting days our enemies were visible and tangible. Today they are invisible, but still with us. I call them fear, fatigue, selfishness, laziness, and pessimism.

Field-Marshal Alexander

IT costs less to build a house which could not produce smoke than one which did.

Chairman, City of London Health Committee

I WENT to London to do a war job and I think that's pretty well over.

John Winant in Washington

## Servant or Switch?

MR SHINWELL stated recently that if he were asked which he would choose, electricity or a domestic servant, he would rather have electricity any time. "Electricity cannot answer back," he said, "it cannot introduce a policeman into the kitchen and give him pie, and it does not take two or three nights a week off."

All of this may be true. But it is equally true—even if the Minister of Fuel didn't bother to say so—that electricity has been known to take time off at awkward moments; and it is certainly capable of giving greater shocks to unwary householders than any he mentioned.

## THE VIOLET

IN quiet places I am found  
Upon the moist and shaded ground,  
Wafting my fragrance all around.  
I struggle hard to live and grow  
Through cold, relentless winds,  
and snow,  
So that my message you might know.

Silent—yet of God's work I speak,  
Of His great love, that He should seek  
To beautify the frail, the meek.

Ellen Hainsworth

## For the Blues?

TRYING to tip tiddleywinks into a wooden cup is a popular game with children. And there is plenty of skill in it, too. Evidently Oxford and Cambridge University undergraduates think the same, for they have had a University tiddleywink contest, and Cambridge won 7-1. It is hoped to make this contest an annual event.

The Varsity battle of tiddleywinks was played on a carpet, and not on a table. Teams were eight a side, and the Oxford team included five, and the Cambridge team four, women.

So, when you try your hand at this very old indoor game, do not despise it. Anyway, it is good enough for the Blues.

## Rota's Playful Ways

By the C N Zoo Correspondent

BRITAIN'S most famous lion may take part in the Victory parade on June 8. The animal is, of course, Mr Winston Churchill's lion, Rota, who lives at the London Zoo. It has been suggested that Rota, in a specially decorated travelling-cage, shall head the procession, and thus typify the great statesman who led us to victory.

Thousands of Zoo visitors have seen this imposing lion, but few know his history, which is a very unusual one. Bred in a travelling circus, he was deserted by his mother and spent his early cubhood days in a private home at Wembley, Middlesex.

In 1938 Rota passed into the care of Mr George Thomson, a City business man living at Pinner, who rigged up a large steel cage for the animal in his garden in Cuckoo Hill Road.

Rota was then about eight months old and an interesting pet he made too. He was so tame that he was often allowed to romp about on the lawn and even run about the house. Like



Mr George Thomson examining Rota's mouth

most young animals, Rota was very playful, and Mr Thomson provided him with any amount of old felt hats, socks, and old boots as toys. His favourite plaything, however, was an old motor-tyre. "This used to give him—and us—lots of amusement," Mr Thomson told me the other day, "as Rota was always trying to crawl through the tyre and getting stuck, so that we had to go and help him out."

"In those days," Mr Thomson added, "people used often to call him 'the Peril of Pinner'; but, in fact, Rota was always manageable, and I kept him till the meat shortage made it difficult to feed him properly. Then I offered him to the Zoo."

That was in 1941. In 1943, to commemorate the Prime Minister's visit to Africa, the Zoological Society offered Rota to Mr Churchill, who agreed to accept him on condition that the lion should continue to live at Regent's Park.

Nor is he entirely forgotten by his owner. I once saw Mr Churchill at the Zoo, playing with Rota and handing him, on a prong, a big joint.

During his Zoo career Rota has fathered no fewer than six families—the last one only the other day, when the lioness Rhona presented him with several cubs. Today, at the age of 8, Rota, weighing over 500 pounds, is the largest of all the Zoo lions. But though now getting on in years (as lions go) he is still playful and romps quite vigorously when Mr Thomson pays him a visit. C. H.

## RICE—THE EASTERN STAFF OF LIFE

IT may be some years before we shall see on our tables again the once-familiar rice-pudding, for rice is the main food of peoples in the Far-East, and there is an acute shortage of it.

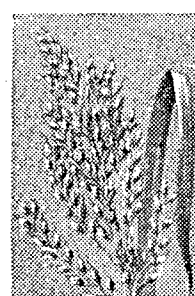
Rice, the daily bread in the East, is so important to human life that it has almost a sacred character; in olden days in China, for instance, the Emperor himself started the season's sowing.

Many of the natives of India are vegetarians, and their chief meal of the day consists of a big heap of rice eaten with curried vegetables and various other ingredients.

The Chinese will skilfully dispose of a heap of rice with chop sticks, but the Indian, turning his back on the world, shovels handfuls of rice into his mouth and makes short work of it.

Rice has been cultivated in India from very ancient times, and is grown wherever the rainfall is sufficient and the temperature suitable. The quality of the rice is constantly being improved, and there are so many kinds of rice, differing from village to village, that only an expert can divide and name the species. The best Indian rice is grown in Bengal.

There are three main rice harvests: the broadcast, sown with the first fall of the rains; the transplanted—a later and better crop; and tank rice. All these crops are entirely dependent on the monsoon, the broadcast needing steady rain with short intervals for three months, the transplanted kind needing light rain in May and June, and moderate moisture in September and October to swell the ear. It is the failure of the later rain that most often causes famine.

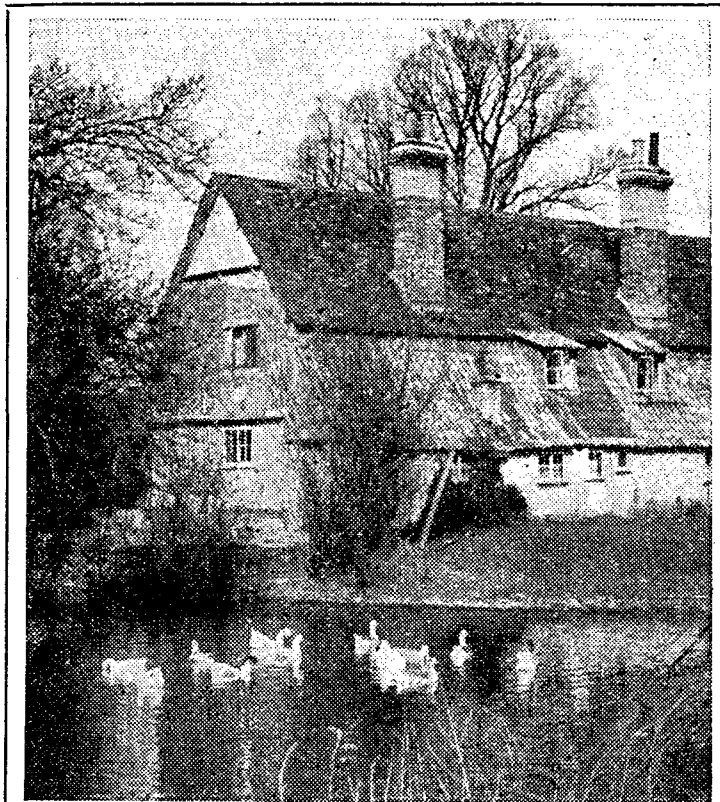


In Western India rice is grown and harvested in a simple manner. First a plot of grass is burned, the land is ploughed up and manured, and the rice seed sown. Next, square depressions are prepared, with mud banks all round. When these are flooded with the first flush of the rains, the rice seedlings are

transplanted into them. In districts where the crops are dependent on irrigation, water is led to the fields by channels.

During the monsoon season men and women work hard, pulling up the rice plants, twisting them into bundles, and then laying them down in the flooded fields. The plants are laid flat in the swampy soil, and in a few hours rise into an upright position and take root. The Burmese have an even quicker way of planting—they carry the rice plants along on a forked stick, placing a bunch in the mud then, catching up another, dab it down as they run.

When the rice is ripe it is reaped by hand with blunt-looking sickles and placed in heaps. It is then carried to the threshing floor, where oxen walk round treading out the grain. After this the rice has to be husked. Rice grown in villages is still prepared by these old-fashioned methods for local use, the rice so treated not being as white as that from the mills. Rice for export and for sale in towns is steam-boiled to make the husking easier; but this highly-polished rice loses much of its food value.



THIS ENGLAND

A quiet scene by a duck pond at Newnham, Hertfordshire



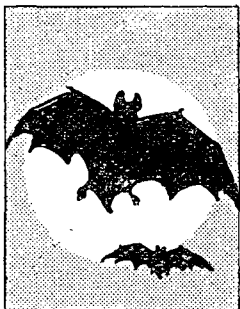
## THE BAT'S OWN RADAR

Now that spring is here, there are signs of new life all around us. Some of our migratory birds are returning, trees are budding, flowers are beginning to appear, and the winter sleepers are stirring. Among the most interesting of the waking creatures are the bats, our only flying mammals.

There are 12 species of bats resident in Great Britain, and all of them hibernate for the winter, some in a church tower or an old barn roof or hollow tree, or—most popular of all—a cave.

In March the first of them begin to appear for their evening and morning flight. The three most common British bats are the Noctule, or Great bat, which has a wing-span of about 14 inches; the Long-eared bat, with a ten-inch wing-span; and, the most numerous, the tiny Pipistrelle, which has a wing-span of eight and a half inches. In certain parts of Great Britain where there are caverns, another two species are also common—the Greater and the Lesser Horseshoe bats. The Greater has a wing-span of 13 inches; the Lesser eight inches. In the west of the country "Natterer's" bat is found; "Daubenton's" bat is the one generally seen flying over lakes and rivers; while the Whiskered bat is found mainly in south and central England. The other four kinds are rather more rare.

For the first two weeks of their lives bats are carried clinging to their mother's fur, but after that mother hangs them up by the feet when she goes in search of food, allowing them to cling to her again when she returns. At the end of summer, when they are three-quarter grown, the



young bats start to fly, apparently without being taught.

The bat's fur, or hair, is long and silky, with a woolly undercoat, and this is cleaned by being licked by the bat—in the same manner as a cat cleans its coat.

There is no truth in the old tale that bats will fly into a person's hair; their hearing is so wonderfully keen that they can avoid anything in the dark. Experiments, in which a bat was released into a dark room criss-crossed in all directions with wires hung with bells, have proved that sight, as we know it, has little to do with the avoidance of objects. It is thought that the very high notes they emit when flying are echoed back by any nearby object, and the sooner the echo the nearer the object. The direction of their ears when listening to the echo gives them the line of the object, and they are able to avoid it. It might be said that every bat has its own radar equipment.

By eating insects the bat is distinctly helpful to man, and in Italy, on some marshes near Rome, bats have been introduced to keep down the malarial mosquitoes. In the Outer Hebrides and in Orkney, owing to the scarcity of trees and caves, and the very few houses to roost in, there are very few bats, and consequently in summer the midges are a trial to all.

## Bullet-Proof Waistcoats

SOME of the C.N.'s older readers may recall a German named Dowe who came to London to show his bullet-proof waistcoat. It was a cumbersome affair of felt about two inches thick, and while Dowe was wearing it his assistant took shots at him from a few yards away with a Service rifle.

The War Office sent some officers to see Dowe's experiment and, though suspicious, were sufficiently interested to accept an invitation from Sir Hiram Maxim to see his own bullet-proof waistcoat. To their disgust at what they thought a bad joke, all he showed them was a plate of chrome steel suspended on a dummy figure. He turned out to be right. Dowe's waistcoat had chrome steel plates concealed in it.

The bullet-proof waistcoat was brought to life again last year by the U.S. War Department, which invented a jacket or a waistcoat of kapok, lined with pockets to hold sheets of plate armour. The armour here, however, was not of steel but thin, tough sheets of glass-fibre cloth impregnated with resin. It would not stop a direct hit but was a protection against shell splinters or flying bits of metal.



### Model of the Giant Eye

This plastic model of the 200-inch telescope—the world's biggest—which is to be erected on Mount Palomar, California, was shown at the World of Tomorrow Exhibition at Pasadena. A girl student is admiring the delicate workmanship.

## THE EAGLE TAKES TO THE WATER

BRITAIN'S largest aircraft carrier is now afloat on her natural element, the sea, and we all pray that her life will be peaceful. She is HMS Eagle, named and launched at Belfast the other day by Princess Elizabeth.

The Princess described the launching as a stirring spectacle, and referred to the great ship as yet incomplete but, nevertheless, a triumph of British design and shipbuilding.

The new Eagle is indeed a wonderful example of shipbuilding science. She is a cruising fortress-town in which 2000 people will live in comfort whether amid the ice-floes of the Arctic or the eternal summer of the Tropics. Gone are the days when the sailor's comfort was not thought worthy of the ship-designer's attention. The men in the Eagle will have spacious dining halls with settees and tubular steel tables and chairs in place of the old broadside mess tables and uncomfortable stools. The galleys, as sailors call their kitchens, are fitted with every modern cooking appliance.

No warship has ever carried such a large refrigerated storage space for food, and there is an apparatus for evaporating and distilling nearly 200 tons of fresh water a day.

The Eagle is believed to be one of the most efficient fighting ships in any of the world's fleets. The Navy's heaviest aircraft will operate from her flight deck, to which they will be brought up from their hangars in lifts as big as lawn-tennis courts. She will be driven by geared turbine machinery with four screws. She will be equipped with radar and have long and close-range guns to ward off any possible enemies.

The new Eagle, Princess Elizabeth has reminded us, takes the place of the old Eagle, "a great and gallant ship," which was sunk in the Mediterranean by Nazi foes. We trust that if her planes ever leave the new Eagle on a warlike mission it will be in the service of the United Nations.

The Eagle would be a very efficient member of a world police force.

## Peaches a Penny Apiece

FRUIT is so plentiful in Australia just now that peaches which, it is said, would sell for 8s 6d each in London have been on sale at a penny apiece in Sydney.

How the news of such cheapness and abundance would have cheered the great Dr Samuel Johnson! He had a schoolboy's appetite for the dainties of the table; but for peaches he had a craving that he expected never to satisfy. When staying at Streatham with his wealthy friends, the Thrales, he used to eat seven or eight large peaches before breakfast, and as many after dinner. Yet he complained that he never had as many as he would like!

The day came at last, however, when he had to confess that he really did have enough of his favourite fruit. That was during a visit to Lord Sandys at Ombersley in fruitful Worcestershire. There the grand old talker ate his fill of peaches, although, unfortunately, we shall never know exactly how many made the feast that was enough.

Fine peaches at a penny apiece would have seemed to Dr Johnson almost a sufficient inducement to visit Australia. But he died before Australia had a single peach tree; the vast island continent did not receive its first English settlers until four years after his death, in 1784. Peaches followed later.

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### The Tiger Comes to Stay

WHEN Uncle Hugh returned from India, he took Nancy to the Zoo for a treat. She had never enjoyed anything so much; she rode on an elephant, and even on a camel, holding tightly to Uncle Hugh, because it was rather wobbly.

But her favourites of all were the tigers. Nancy thought she could never grow tired of watching the large graceful beasts with their

from India, which was arriving as a present for Mother the following afternoon.

School lessons seemed very long the next day, and when in playtime her friend Billy boasted that he was expecting a new puppy, Nancy found it hard to keep her secret.

At last tea-time came, and Nancy tiptoed to the lounge. Outside the door she hesitated. Suppose the tiger were not very tame—he might be rather ferocious with strangers, she thought. Then she plucked up her courage and went boldly in. Mother and Uncle Hugh were talking by the fire. "Ah, here's Nancy!" exclaimed Uncle Hugh. "Allow me to introduce you to the Tiger."

Nancy looked round bewildered—then down at the floor. There lay the tiger, his body stretched out upon the carpet, with Mother and Uncle Hugh standing on him!

Next day she met Billy on the way to school.

"My puppy's come," he announced proudly. "Black-and-tan, with the dearest little stumpy tail."

"Our tiger's arrived," answered Nancy in a superior voice. "Come to tea this afternoon and see him."



silky striped coats and faces like enormous cats.

You can imagine her excitement when Uncle Hugh told her as a great secret that he had brought back a tiger



### Dresden China Again

At Meissen, near Dresden, the production of the world-famous Dresden china has begun again. This artist is perfecting a charming model in clay before it is glazed.

### CLUBLAND LOOKS AHEAD

ONE of the friendliest little books which has come our way recently is Clubland, the story of the pioneer Youth Club in Walworth, which began in 1922 with six boys in a room and, under the inspired guidance of its founder, the Revd J. Butterworth, gradually became a Home of Friendship with unbounded influence.

Often has the C.N. written of Walworth's Clubland, for its story was an uplifting one of noble endeavour and high achievement. Its story was of a desert blossoming as the rose—of a slum area converted into a fine quadrangle with a beautiful church and club-rooms.

Much of what it had taken 20 years—and £100,000—to build up was destroyed in a few seconds during the blitz. But Clubland Number Two must rise up worthily to take its place, and another £100,000 is needed; we are quite certain that the generosity (and the enthusiasm and love) which first made Clubland possible will again be forthcoming.



## An Arab State Grows Up

FOR the last twenty-five years we have been looking after a country that was too young to look after itself. It is called Transjordan, and the hour has now arrived when our Mandate has ended and it has become a sovereign, independent State.

Transjordan is mostly a hot, sandy desert, except for a wide hillside that leads down to the River Jordan and grows vines and vegetables. It lies east of Palestine and south of Syria, and in size is a little larger than Scotland.

This arid land is peopled by Arabs, dark-faced men wrapped from top to toe in hooded and flowing burnous to protect themselves from the blazing sun and the whirls of sand. The population is 400,000, nearly all of whom are Moslems in religion. They are ruled by an Emir, called Abdullah, and he has recently visited London where he was received by the King.

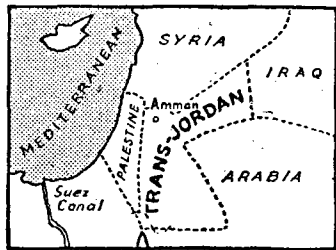
### A Treaty Signed

He came to London at the invitation of Mr Attlee, because it has been decided by the British Government that in these twenty-five years Transjordan has had sufficient practice in holding elections, and in having elected Councils of the people giving advice to their government on how to run things. Consequently, the Transjordan Arabs today know how to rule themselves. His Highness the Emir Abdullah had come to talk over the details of his country's getting her freedom. As a result, Britain and Transjordan have signed a treaty of friendship as between two grown-up and independent countries.

England looked after Transjordan because she was asked to by the League of Nations, which has now been replaced by the United Nations. It all happened after the First World War. Before that time Transjordan was

part of the old Turkish Empire. When the British drove the Turks out, Transjordan was free for the first time for four hundred years, and really did not quite know how to start governing herself. So the League entrusted Britain with a Mandate to help her.

Britain has given this help. She taught Transjordan how to irrigate her dry lands by the Jordan. She dug bore-holes in the desert ground to get the water underneath up for the cattle to drink. She planted trees to make barriers against the wind so that the earth would not be blown away and plants shrivelled up. She organised schools and hospitals. She has taught the people of Transjordan how to do all these things themselves.



The Transjordan people became great friends of ours. They lent us their army during the war, and thus guided our soldiers through hundreds of miles of the queer desert it knows so well.

The people were responsive pupils, they made splendid progress on their own account in self-government, education, and general development.

Our job, willingly undertaken, has now been completed.

## SCIENCE NEWS



### Ice Cream Ships

IN the U.S. Navy are three strange ships as strangely named: Hydrogen, Calcium, and Antimony. They were the advance guard of small refrigerator ships made of concrete and built to supply the U.S. Pacific fleet during the war with fresh food, and possibly iced water, for their deck house supplied 500 gallons of ice-cream. Their refrigerating chambers are heavily insulated with fibre glass.

These ships were small, only 265 feet long, 48 feet broad, but they sufficed for all that was wanted so well that 50 smaller ones have been ordered for the times of peace.

As many of our supplies of meat, fruit, and butter have been held up because of the dearth of the big (and expensive) refrigerator ships, these little concrete ones may fill a gap.

### G-A-D-G-E-T-S

A NUMBER of interesting post-war gadgets to make life easier for the housewife were recently announced in America. These include:

An electric iron on which the edges are illuminated so that the edges of the ironing surface usually shaded by the iron can be seen.

A transparent vacuum-cleaner bag enabling the housewife to see when it needs to be emptied.

An ironing board made of steel mesh which will allow the steam to escape and thus speed up the ironing.

A baby's pram which is tip-proof and will not tip over no matter how the baby bounces about.

### A New Sky-Map

By means of the new 48-inch Schmidt telescope, scientists of the California Institute of Technology are hoping to make a new photographic map of the Universe. They believe it can be done in five years.

This new telescope has a correcting lens and a spherical six-foot mirror, perfect to within two-millionths of an inch. It is nine inches thick and weighs about a ton and a half. It is able to photograph thousands of times as many stars at one time as the enormous 200-inch Palomar giant, and do it in a fraction of the exposure time.

## Ogres of the Atlantic

RADAR, the modern miracle of science, is today being used to warn ships in the North Atlantic of the approach of the dreaded iceberg during hours of fog and darkness.

Every Spring these masses of ice, dislodged from the glaciers of Greenland, come floating southward in stately procession, many of them assuming the most fantastic shapes.

Greenland has never completely emerged from the Ice Age, a vast area being covered by a mantle of ice the depth of which may in places be more than a mile.

The temperature on Greenland's Icy Mountains is often 70 degrees below zero, yet the snowfall, strangely enough, is comparatively small. The sun's heat, however, is so reduced that the snow does not melt. So each snowfall exerts pressure on the previous one, until there is formed a huge consolidated mass.

### How Glaciers Are Made

The pressure of further snowfalls at length causes the accumulated mass to start moving downward toward the valleys, the force of gravity increasing the speed. The snow that has already reached the valleys is now so compressed by the weight of the descending mass that it is transformed into clear ice.

The ice, or glacier as we may now call it, piled up very high, begins to move along the valley to the sea, but at a slower rate.

A glacier may be pushed well out to sea before a piece becomes detached; but sooner or later the front portion will be broken off by tidal action, and so will be launched one of those floating monsters of the North Atlantic.

### Rocks, Mud, and Silt

The bergs are then borne along by the prevailing currents, some of them becoming stranded in or near the Gulf of St Lawrence, others sailing away across the regular steamship tracks to ultimate dissolution in warmer seas.

As they go they drop the heavy rocks and lighter debris in the form of mud and silt, which they have picked up on their travels.

The rocks dropped in this way have so accumulated around the Greenland coast that no trawler will dare to drop her trawl in these waters for fear of ruining it. On the other hand, the mud and silt dropped later off the coast of Newfoundland is believed to benefit that island's chief industry, cod-fishing.

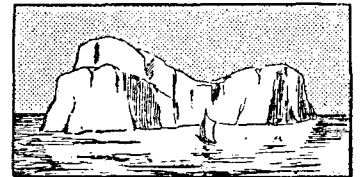
Some bergs are of enormous size. It is not uncommon to see one towering to a height of 100 feet or so above the water, and monsters 400 feet high, and a quarter of a mile long, have been recorded. When we consider that the submerged portion may

be anything from three to nine times the mass above, we get some idea of a berg's immensity.

Icebergs are not so great a menace to shipping as they once were, thanks to the International Ice Patrol, to radio, and to the safety devices like radar with which modern ships are fitted. The Patrol was instituted in January 1914 by agreement between all maritime countries using the North Atlantic, and was directly due to the sinking of the Titanic by an iceberg in April 1912.

The cost of the Patrol is borne by the subscribing countries in proportion to their respective tonnage of shipping using that part of the sea. The Patrol begins in February and continues throughout the spring and summer months.

As depth of ocean can be measured by an electrical device, so the distance and direction of an iceberg can be gauged. The Patrol's observing vessel is equipped with such a device, and in her chart room is a map show-



ing the approximate positions of all ships in the North Atlantic at any particular time. To any that should be in the vicinity of a located berg the warning is flashed, and they, with the further aid of their own instruments, contrive to avoid it.

Thus has come almost completely under the dominion of man a centuries-old terror of the northern seas.

### HOP O' MY THUMB

Just a hundred years ago the curtain went up in a London theatre on a new drama based on the tale of Hop o' My Thumb, the smallest boy who ever wore shoes, but who, later, donned seven-league boots and slayed an ogre.

The title part in this drama was played by General Tom Thumb, an American dwarf, only two feet high, whose proper name was Charles Sherwood Stratton. The critics at the performance were highly complimentary about the little fellow's acting.

At that time General Tom Thumb was only eight. He lived to the age of 45, but his height was never more than three feet, four inches.

## THE CASE OF THE SECRET BICYCLE



A short story about Nazi-occupied Holland.

When the Nazis occupied Holland, things became very difficult for Dutch cyclists, and they had a hard job

keeping their machines on the road. For one thing, there were no rubber tyres—M. Oosterwijk, an enthusiastic cyclist who told us this story recently, had eventually to fit wooden tyres to his B.S.A.—and he had to obtain a permit even for those. But it still kept going. (B.S.A.s are tough!) Then, as the war went on, the Huns started a cycle-grabbing campaign. But they didn't grab M. Oosterwijk's—he took his faithful B.S.A. to pieces and hid the parts away. Under the living-room floor was one hiding-place! On the morning of May 5th the news of the German surrender was announced and M. Oosterwijk joyously re-assembled his B.S.A. and started to ride to his office in Rotterdam. Then came tragedy! He was waylaid by four armed Nazis and forced at the pistol point to hand over his B.S.A. What a terrible piece of luck after such efforts to save his cherished cycle! No wonder that M. Oosterwijk, like so many cyclists throughout the world, is anxious to get hold of another B.S.A.! But soon there will be one for everyone everywhere. So keep in touch with your B.S.A. dealer—he can help you. B.S.A. CYCLES Ltd., BIRMINGHAM 11



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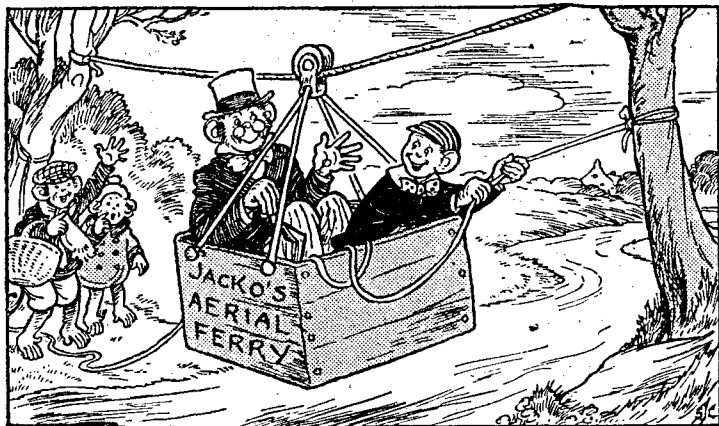
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## High Times For Jacko's Friends



"THERE ought to be a bridge here," thought Jacko, as he rested by the stream, "to save people having to walk to the village to cross over." Then he had a wonderful idea, and he set to work to fix up an aerial ferry. It was a great success, and Jacko was kept busy. Professor Pongo was very pleased when he made the trip. "It's just like flying, but much safer!" he exclaimed delightedly.

### NO STORYTELLER

A SUSPECTED villager WAS accused of stealing some chickens.

"We must prove an alibi," said his lawyer. "Now do try to remember where you were on that night."

"That's impossible—I've no imagination."

### Maxim to Memorise

AN archer is known by his aim, not by his arrows.

### Tongue Twister

GOWER'S bower flowers tower over Gower's flower bowers.

### TO CATCH A FRIEND

SAY to a friend:

A doctor has a brother who is a dentist. Now, what relation is the doctor to the dentist?

Brother, of course, will probably be the scornful reply, to which you retort: No, sister, the doctor is a woman!

## The BRAN TUB

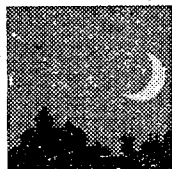
### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Foes of the Frog. Approaching the pond, a chorus of hoarse croaks told Don that the Frogs had arrived in full force. Masses of Frog-spawn, dotted with countless numbers of black specks, floated on the water. Don marvelled at the quantity of future Tadpoles. "Whatever happens to all the Frogs?" he asked Farmer Gray.

"Only a few reach maturity," was the reply. "Fish, newts, and water-beetles all take heavy toll of the Tadpoles; and rats, snakes, and birds, account for large numbers of young Frogs. Mrs Frog lays from one to two thousand eggs, so perhaps this is a good thing."

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south-west, Venus is low in the west, and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at 10 o'clock on Saturday evening, April 6.



### Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, April 3, to Tuesday, April 9.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Adventures of Tim Rabbit. 5.15 Toy-town Golf. 5.50 Prayers. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-song. 5.50 Competition. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Songs by George Beggs; followed by Jack and the King of Connaught. Scottish, 5.0 Scottish songs and dances.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Scottish and Irish songs; followed by Redgauntlet (Part 6). Welsh, 5.0 Storm of Green Hills.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Young Artists. 5.15 Barge Ahoy—a Worzel Gummidge story. North, 5.0 The Mid-night Folk. Scottish, 5.0 Young Artists. Welsh, 5.0 Young Welsh Artists. West, 5.0 Young Artists.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The White Owl. 5.30 Stuff and Nonsense. North, 5.0 Nature Quiz.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Light Princess.

MONDAY, 5.0 Said the Cat to the Dog (No 11). 5.25 Music at Random. 5.40 The Lickey Incline—steepest railway line gradient. North, 5.0 The Week's Programmes; followed by Nursery Sing-song: Looking Forward; and Is This your Hobby? Scottish, 5.0 Programme in Gaelic; followed by Concert by Young Artists. West, 5.0 Musical Nursery Rhymes; followed by Searching For Wild Flowers (No 1).

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Bear Garden (Part 1); followed by Vice-versa—a game with gramophone records. 5.40 F. N. S. Creek comments on a football match. North, and Northern Ireland, 5.0 Story for Young Listeners; followed by A Certain Dr Mellor (Part 1). Scottish, 5.0 A Story for Young Listeners; followed by Mrs McSpindle's Pig (Part 1); music by French composers; and a Sir Walter Scott ballad. Welsh, 5.0 Children's Hour in Welsh.

### Walking on Air?

"YES, sir," said the manager of a much-blitzed and recently reopened hotel as he greeted a new arrival, "our hotel is now without a flaw."

"Good gracious!" was the startled reply. "What am I to walk on then?"

### The Life of a Bun

WHEAT  
HEAT  
EAT  
AT  
T

### FACTS ABOUT ANGOLA

ANGOLA is a Portuguese possession in West Africa, more than 14 times as big as Portugal itself. It is bounded on the north by the Belgian Congo, on the east by the Belgian Congo and Northern Rhodesia, on the south by mandated South-West Africa. Angola's area is 488,000 square miles. The country is flat and very hot near the Atlantic coast, where the coast-line is over 1000 miles, hilly and cooler inland where there is a wealth of tropical vegetation. The population is 3,738,000, nearly all of whom are Bantus.

The first Portuguese settlers came to this region in 1491. The present capital is Sao Paulo de Loanda, a seaport, population 40,000, but the future capital is to be Nova Lisboa. Chief products: coffee, maize, sugar, palm oil, and palm kernels. A transcontinental railway runs from Lobito on the coast, through the Belgian Congo and Rhodesia to Beira in Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Silver Collection  
10 sixpences and  
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ON	ABELE
ANISE	ILL
LURES	ELI
ATE	TENSE

### Riddles About the Alphabet

WHY is the letter A like honey-suckle? Because a bee follows it.

Why is B like fire? Because it makes oil boil.

Why should the letter W be avoided? Because it always makes ill will.

### WASTED ENERGY

THERE was a young fisher of Deal  
Who set out to hunt for a meal.  
A hook and a line  
He cast time after time,  
But never a bite did he feel.

## Simple Recipe to End Catarrh

Don't let that catarrhal infection get a hold. Try this simple medicine—you can make it up at home quite easily, though nowadays most chemists keep it bottled ready for use. It's the wonderful old "Parmint" recipe and you will begin to feel relief with the first dose of this Parmint Syrup. It clears the stopped-up passages of the nose and throat, ends head noises and dullness, soothes and relieves the soreness of the chest. There's nothing to equal Parmint Syrup for smashing the worst attack of catarrh or cararrhal cold.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parmint Syrup from your chemist to-day, and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle, Family size 2/10, including Tax.

NOTE.—If through shortage of bottles your chemist is out of Parmint Syrup, get a 3/11 bottle of Parmint Concentrated Essences and make up a big supply yourself.

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## Palabra Inglesa

(The word of an Englishman)



In South America, when they want to describe a product which is utterly reliable in every way, like the word of an Englishman, they use the phrase Palabra Inglesa.

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Coming nearer home, you too will be proud to own a super-classy Hercules.



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## Barry has boundless energy

He's a lively little fellow—brimming over with fun. It would be difficult to find a more sturdy, robust boy at his age.

Mother is proud of him and has always kept a watchful eye on his health. She well knows that when needed, a dose of 'California Syrup of Figs' will soon correct stomach upsets and regulate the system.

It is the natural treatment for children—the laxative they like. 'California Syrup of Figs' keeps them regular, well and happy.



## "California Syrup of Figs"

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